

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
AT SEATTLE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,  
  
Plaintiff,  
  
v.  
  
JOSEPH TROY EASTON,  
  
Defendant.

NO. CR21-174-JCC

[PROPOSED]

**PRELIMINARY  
ORDER OF FORFEITURE**

THIS MATTER comes before the Court on the United States' Motion for Entry of a Preliminary Order of Forfeiture ("Motion") seeking to forfeit, to the United States, Defendant Joseph Troy Easton's interest in the following "Subject Property":

1. A Sig Sauer, Model SP 2022, semi-automatic pistol (serial number SP0172075), loaded with 14 rounds of ammunition recovered from the Chevrolet Tahoe's glove box.

The Court, having reviewed the United States' Motion, as well as the other papers and pleadings filed in this matter, hereby FINDS that entry of a Preliminary Order of Forfeiture is appropriate because:

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- 1 • The Subject Property is forfeitable pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 853, as property  
2 that facilitated the Defendant's commission of Conspiracy to Distribute  
3 Controlled Substances, in violation of 21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1), (b)(1)(B),  
4 and is also forfeitable pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 924(d)(1), by way of 28  
5 U.S.C. § 2461(c), as firearms and ammunition involved in his commission  
6 of Unlawful Possession of a Firearm, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(1),  
7 and Carrying a Firearm During and in Relation to a Drug Trafficking  
8 Crime, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 924(c)(1)(A); and,
- 9 • Pursuant to the Plea Agreement he entered on August 1, 2023, the  
10 Defendant agreed to forfeit the Subject Property, which is subject to  
11 forfeiture pursuant 21 U.S.C. § 853 and 18 U.S.C. § 924(d)(1), by way of  
12 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c). Dkt. No. 601, ¶ 12.

13 NOW, THEREFORE, THE COURT ORDERS:

- 14 1. Pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 853, 18 U.S.C. § 924(d)(1), by way of 28 U.S.C.  
15 § 2461(c), and his Plea Agreement, the Defendant's interest in the Subject Property is  
16 fully and finally forfeited, in its entirety, to the United States;
- 17 2. Pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 32.2(b)(4)(A)-(B), this Preliminary Order will  
18 be final as to the Defendant at the time he is sentenced, it will be made part of the  
19 sentence, and it will be included in the judgment;
- 20 3. The United States Department of Justice, the Drug Enforcement  
21 Administration, and/or their authorized agents or representatives, shall maintain the  
22 Subject Property in its custody and control until further order of this Court;
- 23 4. Pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 32.2(b)(6) and 21 U.S.C. § 853(n), the  
24 United States shall publish notice of this Preliminary Order and its intent to dispose of the  
25 Subject Property as permitted by governing law. The notice shall be posted on an official  
26 government website—[www.forfeiture.gov](http://www.forfeiture.gov)—for at least thirty (30) days. For any person  
27 known to have alleged an interest in the Subject Property, the United States shall also, to

the extent possible, provide direct written notice to that person. The notice shall state that any person, other than the Defendant, who has or claims a legal interest in the Subject Property must file a petition with the Court within sixty (60) days of the first day of publication of the notice (which is thirty (30) days from the last day of publication), or within thirty (30) days of receipt of direct written notice, whichever is earlier. The notice shall advise all interested persons that the petition:

- a. shall be for a hearing to adjudicate the validity of the petitioner's alleged interest in the Subject Property;
- b. shall be signed by the petitioner under penalty of perjury; and
- c. shall set forth the nature and extent of the petitioner's right, title, or interest in the Subject Property, as well as any facts supporting the petitioner's claim and the specific relief sought.

5. If no third-party petition is filed within the allowable time period, the United States shall have clear title to the Subject Property, and this Preliminary Order shall become the Final Order of Forfeiture as provided by Fed. R. Crim. P. 32.2(c)(2);

6. If a third-party petition is filed, upon a showing that discovery is necessary to resolve factual issues presented by that petition, discovery may be conducted in accordance with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure before any hearing on the petition is held. Following adjudication of any third-party petitions, the Court will enter a Final Order of Forfeiture, pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 32.2(c)(2) and 21 U.S.C. § 853(n), reflecting that adjudication; and

7. The Court will retain jurisdiction for the purpose of enforcing this Preliminary Order, adjudicating any third-party petitions, entering a Final Order of Forfeiture, and amending the Preliminary Order or Final Order as necessary pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 32.2(e).

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2 IT IS SO ORDERED.

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4 DATED this 17th day of September 2023.

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A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John C. Coughenour", is written over a horizontal line.

THE HON. JOHN C. COUGHENOUR  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

Presented by:

s/Krista K. Bush

KRISTA K. BUSH

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